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Report of the Secretary and Treasurer.

FOR THE YEAR 1896.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Institute :

During the month of January, 1880, in this city the Ohio Institute of Mining Engineers was organized and the number present at that meeting could have been counted on your fingers. Little did that cluster of gentlemen think that the organization they were then forming for their mutual improvement in meeting the practical questions to be solved in our vocation would expand to embrace the body of experts whose names are now upon our roll of membership. During this period our members have been called to distant fields. Upon entering the seventeenth year of our existence two of our members are found to be in England and the remainder are scattered from the lakes to the gulf and from Nova Scotia to Southern California.

At the last annual meeting twenty-five names were added to our roll of membership, which was thus increased to one hundred and thirty-four. During the past year two have withdrawn and two have been removed by death, so that we enter the year with one hundred and twenty-seven active and two honorary members. There are two applications which await our official action.

At the beginning of the year there was in the treasury \$121.70. During the year \$122 was received for dues, \$27 for initiation fees and 25 cents for a sale of a Journal, thus making the total receipts of the year \$149.25.

There has been paid for hall rent and other expenses of the last meeting \$13. For programs and papers \$14.25. For stenographers \$85.75. Of this amount \$33.25 was for reporting of the winter meeting of 1894, and \$13 was paid for lithographs for the forthcoming Journal, thus making the expenditures for the year \$126, leaving a balance on hand of \$144.95.

During the year that has just closed death has removed two of our members. On October 1, Mr. Thos. West was engaged in examining an air shaft which as mine manager he was having sunk at Mine No. 3 at Sherrodsville, Ohio, when by a mistake in signals a shot was discharged, killing him instantly. Mr.

West was one of our new members, having been elected on January 17, 1895, and many will recall the activity with which he participated in the discussion of papers at our last winter's meeting. His untimely death is greatly regretted.

The Hon. Robert Sherrard, of Steubenville, Ohio, was taken from our midst on November 8, 1895. Mr. Sherrard was elected an honorary member on July 15, 1886. He took an active interest in the Institute during its early days and by his influence and means gave to it substantial aid. He was greatly revered, especially by the older members of the Institute. It is eminently proper that the Institute should take substantial recognition of its deceased members. It is a matter of profound regret that this important feature has not received due attention since the organization of the Institute. Taking this view of the matter your secretary has prepared a chapter on Necrology which will cover recent years. This will appear in Journal No. 23, and I urge that it be followed in each succeeding issue.

The depression in business circles of the past three years has had a depressing effect upon all societies, ours being no exception. With a view of economy it was decided to issue two Journals (Nos. 22 and 23) in one volume. This was undertaken early in the summer. It was found that a member had his paper for revision and the delay he occasioned carried your secretary into the busy season, hence the delay. The Journal is now more than half printed, and it was the desire to have it ready for distribution at this meeting. The delay will result in the forthcoming Journal eclipsing all former publications in composition and finish.

Upon the issuing of Journal No. 21 each member was requested to send the secretary the names of two persons who were eligible and desirable as members. To these were mailed a copy which inclosed a blank petition for membership. This was productive of splendid results and I respectfully request its repetition.

I wish to congratulate you upon the prominent features of this meeting in which the number and character of the papers were never more promising of good results.

For your kind and courteous treatment I wish to extend my thanks.

R. M. HASELTINE,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Upon motion, report of secretary-treasurer accepted.

PRESIDENT ORTON: I will say to you, gentlemen of the Institute, it is a pleasure which we have not often had at our meetings to listen to such a paper as the one which we will now receive. The gentleman who will read it is a man who is competent to handle his subject thoroughly, and his subject is one of the foremost questions which we, as mining engineers, are called upon to consider and handle.

I take great pleasure in introducing to you this evening Prof. R. M. Atwater, Chemist for the Solvay Process Company, Syracuse, N. Y.

Professor Atwater was greeted with hearty applause by those assembled, and before proceeding to read the following paper, he said:

PROFESSOR ATWATER: I thank you, Mr. President and Secretary Haseltine, for the privilege of presenting this paper before this meeting.